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REMARKS

The May 2, 2006, Office action rejected claims 1-7 and 14-16. To expedite prosecution of this case, this Amendment and Response amends claims 1 and 14, without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the original claims in co-pending applications. Support for the amendment may be found in the originally filed specification, claims and figures; no new matter has been introduced. In view of the amendments and remarks presented in this paper, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

In the May 2, 2006, Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent no. 6,244,877 (Asao) in view of U.S. Patent no. 6,616,480 (Kameyama). In addition, the Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asao in view of Kameyama and in further view of Uleski. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-7 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabrisko in view of Asao. For the following reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 to emphasize that a face seal is disposed within a recess of the top surface of the insulator. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment find full support in the originally filed claims, specification, or drawings. Claims 1 and 14, as amended, are distinct over the cited references for a least the reason that neither Asao, Kameyama, Uleski, Gabrisko, nor any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests that that a face seal is disposed within a recess of the top surface of the insulator. Applicants were the first to discover the benefits of disposing a face seal within a recess in the top surface of the insulator within the claimed electrical assembly. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 14, as amended, are allowable. Since claims 2-7 variously depend from claim 1, claims 2-7 are also allowable. Since claims 15-16 depend from claim 14, claims 15-16 are also allowable. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection under 35 USC §103 is not proper. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 8-13.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-7 and 14-16. Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail or deem that further amendments should be made to improve the form of the claims, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Please charge any necessary fees, including any extension of time, or any other fee deficiencies to Delphi Technologies, Inc., Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

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